



# Mishawaka Communicator



*Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.*

Dave Wood, Mayor

[www.mishawaka.in.gov](http://www.mishawaka.in.gov)

September 2014

## A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



Public Safety has always been a top priority of mine. We devote a lot of time and City resources make sure that we can provide the best police, fire and EMS services possible. To that end, one project that has occupied most of my time over the past year and a half is the St. Joseph County PSAP Consolidation Project. PSAP, or Public Safety Access Points (more commonly known as 9-1-1 communication centers) are mission critical facilities, vital to the public safety of any community. Mishawaka's 9-1-1 dispatch center is a 24/7/365 operation that is currently housed in the Mishawaka Police Department. Our dedicated dispatchers provide professional, high quality service, especially during emergency situations when our citizens need them most.

The State recently mandated that all counties consolidate their emergency dispatch centers to one or two locations by January 1, 2015 or they will lose State 9-1-1 funding. St. Joseph County receives roughly \$2 million in State 9-1-1 funding annually and there are currently four PSAP centers countywide including Mishawaka, South Bend, St. Joseph Co. Police and Clay Fire.

The County Commissioners, the Mayor of South Bend and myself began meeting in September of 2013 to investigate how to become compliant with the law before the looming deadline. From those initial discussions, a Governance Ordinance was passed by the St. Joseph County Council to establish an Executive Board, made up of myself, a County Commissioner and the Mayor of South Bend, and an Operations Board that includes public safety employees representing the various agencies in the County. The original work group included 65 participants from the various agencies, including 10 subcommittees. All together, there have been over 100 meetings on the subject to date.

Our ambitious goals were two-fold; to comply with Indiana Statute IC 36-8-16.7-47 regarding consolidation to maintain state funding including planning for consolidation by December 31, 2014 and improve public safety services to our citizens. We hoped to do this by creating a single command structure, introducing new technology with a common

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## Everyone Loves a Quitter!

*Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center*

No matter how long you've smoked or even how often you smoke, quitting now can help you live a longer, healthier life. By quitting now, you're reducing your risk for cancer, lung disease, heart attack, stroke and even premature death.

Did you know that experts estimate that nearly one in five deaths in the U.S. can be attributed to smoking? In addition, findings in a report recently released by the Office of the Surgeon General conclude that smoking also causes:

- Rheumatoid arthritis and immune system weakness
- Increased risk for tuberculosis (TB) disease and death from TB
- Ectopic pregnancy and impaired fertility
- Cleft lip and cleft palates in babies of women who smoke during early pregnancy
- Erectile dysfunction
- Age-related macular degeneration
- Increased the failure rate of cancer treatment

Unfortunately, Indiana consistently ranks amongst the highest in smoking prevalence; 24 percent compared to the national average of 19.6 percent. Nearly 30 percent of adult Hoosiers between 18 and 30 currently smoke – costing the state over \$2 billion annually in healthcare costs.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS!

Sep 6	NFL Punt/Pass/Kick
Sep 26-27	IMEA Lineworkers' Skills/Training Rodeo (Beutler Park)
Sep 27	Evening at the Oasis (Battell Center)
Oct 25	Oktoberfest (Beutler Park)

## Ghouls and Goodies

### Halloween Events

*(at the Battell Center)*

Oct 28	Ghoul-ey Story Time
Oct 30	Goodies and Crafts

## ONLINE ACCESS

The City of Mishawaka maintains an online presence and can be found on the web at <http://mishawaka.in.gov>.

Find us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>

Remember, the current issue of the Mishawaka Communicator is always available as of the 1st of every month at <http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>

## A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

platform for all communities, creating common standard operating procedures, more efficient staffing and better communication between agencies. In addition, I had the additional goal of improving service while saving the City of Mishawaka money.

The Executive Board retained the services of DLZ, Indiana and Umbaugh and Assoc. as the primary consultants and began an intense process of planning, organizing and site analysis. It was determined that a single PSAP center countywide was the most economical and optimal approach to achieve our goals. Each unit came up with a list of possible sites and after much analysis, the Mishawaka site was selected as best-suited for the new center. Plans were developed to consolidate all four PSAP centers into two temporary centers by the end of this year while the new center is being constructed. The temporary centers will operate as follows: Mishawaka will continue to operate in the Mishawaka Police Department while St. Joseph County Police, Clay Fire and South Bend will operate out of the South Bend Police Department. That site will be renovated prior to beginning temporary operations, then serve as a dark (backup) site for the consolidated center going forward. The new center is slated for completion in the third quarter of 2015.

Before construction could begin, the building and technology plans, operations plans, financial model and cost allocation had to be approved in the form of an Interlocal Agreement by the Councils of each of the governing units. Of the 27 council members in Mishawaka, South Bend and St. Joseph County, only two voted against. That was a resounding message of confidence in the process. The Mishawaka Council led the way as they were first to unanimously approve the agreement. Following the agreement's passage, I worked with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to secure, free of charge, an 8-acre plot along Capital Ave. just south of Twelfth Street. The consortium also hired an Executive Director to lead the Center with construction slated to begin in September.

The Center will become a County facility and cost roughly \$9 million to build and roughly \$6 million annually to operate. The cost to build and operate the center will be shared by St. Joseph Co, The City of South Bend and the City of Mishawaka using a formula based on each community's property values and call volume. Mishawaka's share of the project amounts to about 17% of the overall costs. Mishawaka will pay St. Joseph County roughly \$736,000 annually for operations of the center and another \$124,000 annually for debt service on the construction and technology for the life of the bond. Mishawaka currently pays roughly \$1.2 million to operate its own PSAP center. The County will hire to staff the center with preferential treatment given to dispatchers that currently work at any of the four existing PSAPs.

I am proud of the progress that we have made in a short time to make this critical facility a reality. It has been a complicated project to combine four distinctly different cultures into one center but it has been one of the most thorough and comprehensive approaches related to PSAP consolidations in the State. The bottom line is that this collaborative effort will result in a new 9-1-1 center that will improve service, improve efficiency, cooperation and communication between all local public safety departments, comply with State law and save our City and our citizens money. There is still a lot of work to be done but I am confident we will achieve all our goals.

I would personally like to thank our City team members that contributed greatly to the success of the project including Geoff Spiess, Mishawaka Human Resources and Law Department Director, Chief Ken Witkowski, Assistant Chief Steve Ravotto, Sergeant Russ Haimbaugh and Brian Billingsley from the Mishawaka Police Department, and Chief Dale Freeman and Assistant Chief Greg Hunt from the Mishawaka Fire Department.

It seems to me that this effort illustrates government at its finest. Washington should stand up and take notice!

*Mayor Dave Wood*



## SJRM - Everyone Loves a Quitter! *(continued)*

If you're ready to quit, or are even thinking about quitting, it's important to know you have access to a variety of next step options:

- **Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT).** There are five kinds of NRTs to choose from—patches, gum, nasal spray, inhalers and lozenges. Each of them has different risks, side effects and benefits. Ask your physician for a recommendation if you are unsure which type would be best for you.
- **Prescription drugs.** The prescription drugs Zyban, Wellbutrin, Aplenzin and Chantix help smokers quit successfully by reducing nicotine withdrawal symptoms.
- **Counseling and support.** Many smokers find it's easier to stay smoke-free if they receive support from telephone counseling, quit-smoking programs and support groups.

As the lead agency for Tobacco-Free St. Joseph County, SJRM works to eliminate the tobacco industry's influence through advocacy, social alteration and policy change. SJRM offers a Mayo Clinic-certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist; five free six-week tobacco cessation classes annually as well as an introduction to the Indiana Tobacco Quitline for free support via, phone, web or text. Upon completion of SJRM's free, six-week tobacco cessation class, most participants remark that quitting, while trying at times, was much easier than they imagined possible. They are delighted with new non-smoking life.

To learn more about the cessation classes, other coalition activities or to support the smoke-free policy initiative, please contact SJRM at (574) 335-3896.